



Minutes Join the Network meeting 30 November 2018 EUPHA section on Health Workforce Research (EUPHA-HWR)

Welcome

President Ellen Kuhlmann and Vice-President Ronald Batenburg welcomed the participants and highlighted that the HWR section celebrates its first anniversary.

Agenda

1. Activities report 2018
2. Special Issue of Health Policy, launch
3. Marketplace / Connecting stakeholders
4. Preparing for future HWR activities
5. Others

Activities of the HWR section

The HWR participated in a number of activities, among others, the Global Forum Human Resources for Health (sponsored by EUPHA), the WHO Coalition of Partners Conferences in Helsinki, London and Ljubljana (as EUPHA delegate/ sponsored by EUPHA) and the EHMA Conference (invited/sponsored by EHMA). HWR has built collaborations, among others, with WHO Europe, OBS, ASPHER, EHMA, and the EU-funded SEPTEM project, and the TO-REACH project and also contributed to the EU Consultation on future research.

Among the publications related to the HWR section and its members are two highlights: the article 'A call for action to establish a research agenda for building a future health workforce in Europe', Kuhlmann et al., for the EUPHA Health Workforce Research section, Health Research Policy and Systems, 2018, 16:52; <https://rdcu.be/1hZv>, and a Special Issue of Health Policy entitled 'A people centred health workforce in Europe: how to make it happen', edited by Kuhlmann, Batenburg and Dussault, October 2018.

A quarterly Newsletter is established, which is available online at the EUPHA website to members and non-members and provides comprehensive information on HWR activities.

At the 11 EUPHA Conference a wide range of HWR themes were presented in the oral, pitch and poster sessions. The highlights include: a preconference with the TO-REACH project and collaboration with partner organisations, a joint workshop with the HSR section, a joint workshop with ASPHER, a workshop on interprofessional development organised by DEFACTUM-Denmark, and an invited presentation to the panel 'Put the PRO back in the public health professionals' organised by the EUPHA President and Office.

During the 'Meet the Network' session the recent Special Issue of Health Policy on the health workforce was launched, supported by 150 free sample copies provided by the publisher (Elsevier) and the presence of a member of the Editorial Journal Office in Berlin.

Annual report

The annual report 2017 is available on the website; an annual progress report 2018 will be submitted in early 2019. Major activities are flagged at the EUPHA HWR website and can also be traced in the quarterly Newsletters (see information above).



Who wants to become more active? (marketplace)

Several of the partnering organisations introduced their projects, among others, the TO-REACH project, the Observatory project and a forthcoming book on skill mix, the ASPHER project in collaboration with WHO/ CoP on the roadmap for professionalization of the public health workforce and the development of a competences framework. In addition, the WHO Europe Programme Coordinator for Human Resources for Health (Gabriele Jacob) sent her regards, and the SEPEM project coordinator (Eszter Kovacs) also sent a message.

HWR representative for early career and PhD researchers, Marius Ungureanu, told about the connections with the EUPHAnext group, and together with HWR secretary Milena Santric-Milicevic highlighted efforts to improve social media activities. All participants were invited to send notices for the quarterly Newsletters and to sign up for EUPHA HWR section if they have not already done so.

Ideas for workshop activities next year

Several suggestions were made for the next EUPHA Conference in Marseille. There was interest to organise a preconference from two colleagues/groups: one idea was related to the skill mix project, and another one to health workforce research in France. More generally, the format of the Preconference was discussed, yet there were pros and cons. A joint interim conference in 2020 with the HSR section was mentioned as a further opportunity.

Suggestions from participants

There was a lively discussion among the nearly 30 participants (with some moves) and a focus on eight major topics:

- Improve knowledge on methodologies, e.g. organise a session at Marseille; specifically, there was interest in comparative methods and mixed methods.
- Improve data for all health workforce groups, and move beyond the current focus on doctors and nurses.
- Improve connections between research and policy on health workforce issues, e.g. organise a policy dialogue.
- Exchange knowledge on 'best practices'.
- Greater attention to migration issues.
- Organisation of a skills building workshop, especially to support early career researchers.
- Greater attention to the public health workforce.
- Greater attention to the connections between the health and social care workforce.

Elections

n/a

Steering committee

See 2017 election, website

Any other business



All participants agreed to share their email addresses and to take photos during the session. The HWR section President thanked the participants for their interest in the new HWR section and the EUPHA President and past-President and the colleagues in the EUPHA Office for their great support.

List of attendants

8 December 2018

Ellen Kuhlmann and Milena Santric-Milicevic